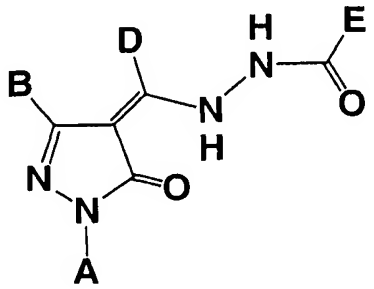
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by formula (1):



Formula (1)

wherein

A is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

B is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

D is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms; and

E is a C_{2-14} aryl group excluding a pyridyl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, one or more nitro groups, one or more halogen atoms, one or more cyano groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, NG^1G^2,

~~wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more carboxyl groups, one or more sulfonic acid groups, one or more phosphonic acid groups, one or more tetrazole groups, and one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,~~

wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more carboxyl groups, one or more sulfonic acid groups, one or more phosphonic acid groups, one or more tetrazole groups, and one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NG^3,

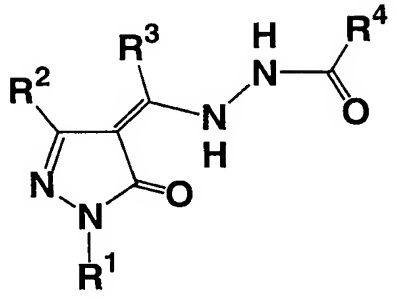
wherein G^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group,

wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

with the proviso that when E is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups and A is a phenyl group, said phenyl group is substituted,

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by formula (2):



Formula (2)

wherein

R^1 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group excluding a pyridyl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, one or more nitro groups or NR^5R^6, [[and]]

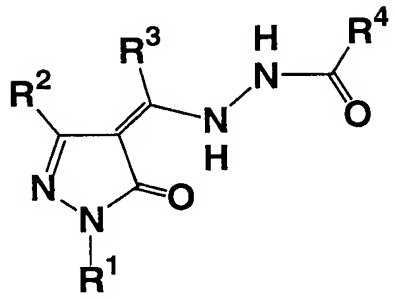
wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups;

with the proviso that when R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups and R^1 is a phenyl group, said phenyl group is substituted,

a tautomer prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39, wherein R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A pyrazolone compound ~~according to Claim 39,~~ represented by formula (2):



Formula (2)

wherein

R^1 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

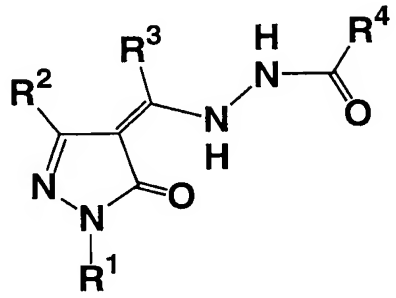
R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with NR^5R^6 (wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups),

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A pyrazolone compound ~~according to Claim 39,~~ represented by formula (2):



Formula (2)

wherein

R^1 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

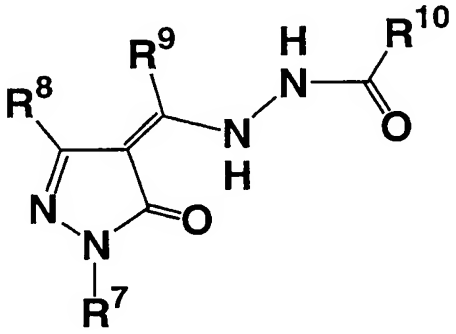
R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more nitro groups,

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by formula (3):



Formula (3)

wherein

R^7 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, [[and]]

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^8 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^9 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group excluding a pyridyl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more carboxyl groups, one or more sulfonic acid groups, one or more phosphonic acid groups, one or more tetrazole groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{11},

wherein R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, and

wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more carboxyl groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$, wherein X is CH_2, O, S or

NR^{11}; and R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

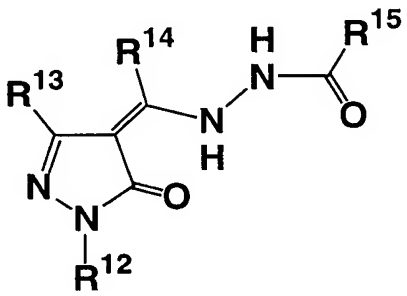
Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more sulfonic acid groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more phosphonic acid groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more tetrazole groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claims 49 - 50 (Canceled).

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by formula (4):



Formula (4)

wherein

R^{12} is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, [[and]]

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^{13} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^{14} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group excluding a pyridyl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a tetrazole group, a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group and $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{16},

wherein R^{16} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, and

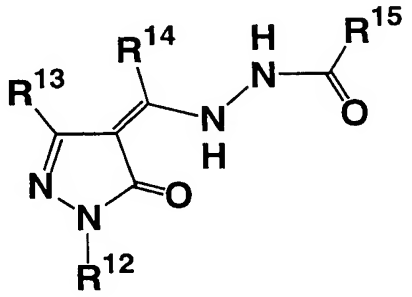
wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

with the proviso that when R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups and R^{12} is a phenyl group, said phenyl group is substituted,

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51, wherein R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a hydroxyl group and a carboxyl group; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A pyrazolone compound ~~according to Claim 51,~~ represented by formula (4):



Formula (4)

wherein

R^{12} is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups,

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

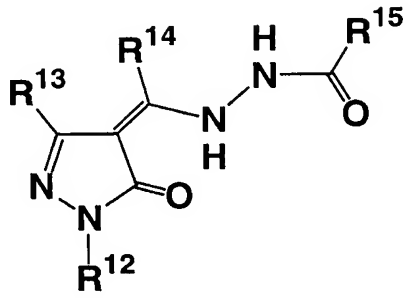
R^{13} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^{14} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with an amino group and a carboxyl group;

a tautomer, a prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A pyrazolone compound ~~according to Claim 51,~~ represented by formula (4):



Formula (4)

wherein

R^{12} is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups,

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^{13} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^{14} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a nitro group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms;

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 38 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 40 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 41 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 42 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 44 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 45 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 46 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 47 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 48 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent

Claims 66 - 67 (Canceled).

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 52 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

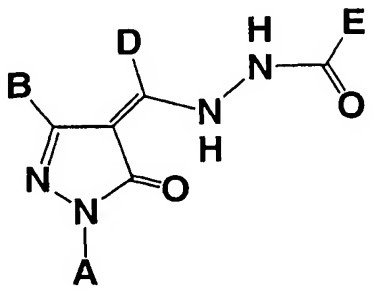
Claim 70 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 53 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 54 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claims 72 - 73 (Canceled):

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): A medicament comprising at least one pyrazolone compound of formula (1) according to Claim 38.

Claim 75 (New): A pyrazolone compound represented by formula (1):



Formula (1)

wherein

A is a phenyl group,

wherein the phenyl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

B is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a phenyl group;

D is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms; and

E is a phenyl,

wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, one or more nitro groups, NG^1G^2,

wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups,

one or more carboxyl groups, and one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NG^3,

wherein G^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group,

wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

Claim 76 (New): A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 75 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 77 (New): A medicament comprising at least one pyrazolone compound of formula (1) according to Claim 75.